

H.R. 4479 to repeal the oil company subsidies and give a break to consumers and small businesses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the settled guidelines previously cited, that request cannot be entertained.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Medicare part D, confusing, complicated, very costly. In fact, the Bush administration lied about the cost. They had estimates that said it would cost \$750 billion to \$1 trillion, but they suppressed that to get votes from conservatives on their side. They said not a penny more than 400 million, and it is very costly to seniors.

We now have 3 million seniors who have fallen into something called the donut hole. They get to spend \$2,600 out of pocket before they get any more Medicare prescription drug benefit, and they have to pay a higher price for the drugs during that time period than they could get at the local drugstore, let alone getting it from Canada or if it was centrally purchased by the government.

We have it in our power to fix it today, save the taxpayer \$750 billion, get the seniors out of the donut hole, but they are going to say it is the custom and practice of the House not to consider such things.

The custom and the practice of the House is to fix problems confronting the people of the United States of America. It is cleared on my side of the aisle. If he objects, it is only the Republicans who object.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take up the bill, H.R. 752.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the settled guidelines previously cited, that request cannot be entertained.

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Republicans have objected.

□ 1115

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

(Mr. MARKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the Military Commissions Act, which we are taking up today, will not make us more secure. It will endanger American personnel overseas, undermine the Geneva conventions, and give a get-out-of-jail-free card to people who may have committed war crimes.

If an American is captured in North Korea, Iran, Syria, or Somalia and held and interrogated under the same kangaroo court process this bill will create, every single Member of this House would be outraged at that miscarriage of justice.

The public is tired of a Republican majority that retreats to fear-mongering instead of trying to find constructive solutions to the serious security problems facing Americans. The Republicans refuse to screen for nuclear bomb material coming in in ships, they refuse to screen cargo going onto American passenger planes, and they refuse to require that chemical plants in our country have mandatory security built around them.

By passing this bill today, we are lowering our standards and we are encouraging other countries to lower their standards as well. And it will be the American troops captured on a future battlefield who will pay the price.

DO-LESS-THAN-NOTHING CONGRESS

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, working families are feeling the financial squeeze now more than ever. At a time when gas prices, tuition bills, and housing costs are skyrocketing, real wages for full-time workers are declining.

Low-income families are suffering even more, with the lowest inflation adjustment minimum wage in 50 years. The Bush economy has made it difficult for the income of all working Americans to keep up with the rising costs. Democrats have a plan to reserve these misguided tax cuts and redirect them to the middle class and working people who need them most.

Mr. Speaker, since the Republicans in this body have refused to raise the minimum wage for the past 9 years, and since they seem intent on adjourning this body before taking up a straight up-or-down vote on raising it, I now ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 2429, Congressman GEORGE MILLER's Fair Minimum Wage Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the settled guidelines previously cited, that request cannot be entertained.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Cannot be entertained under the Republican leadership.

REPUBLICANS HAVE GOOD RECORD IN PASSING COMMON-SENSE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, over the last year, House Republicans have focused on common sense energy solutions to help lower gas prices, create jobs for American workers, and reduce America's reliance on foreign energy sources. And what have the Democrats done? Democrats voted against the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act, which would create thousands of family wage American jobs and allow more

of our energy resources to be produced in the deep seas while empowering States to protect their coastlines.

Democrats voted against the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act, which would encourage new refinery capacity in order to increase gasoline supplies and drive down high prices.

Democrats voted against the American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act, authorizing environmentally safe energy production in ANWR, creating 1 million family wage jobs and increasing the supply of American-made energy to lower gasoline prices.

Mr. Speaker, I keep hearing from the other side of the aisle this refrain of the "do-nothing Congress." I would say it is more the "do-nothing Democrats." Republicans have a strong record in passing commonsense energy solutions, something Democrats can't claim.

It is time for the other side to quit whining and start working.

CONGRESS SHOULD MAKE COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE TODAY BY PASSING LABOR-HHS BILL

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, for 6 years now, Washington Republicans have done absolutely nothing to help college students better afford college. President Bush promised to increase Pell Grants during his first presidential election in 2000, but has refused to live up to that promise. The maximum Pell Grant has been frozen for 4 straight years, and now only covers 32 percent of tuition costs.

Inaction was not the problem earlier this year when the Republican Congress raided student aid programs. Our Republican colleagues raided \$12 billion from college education programs, forcing the Education Department to raise interest rates on college loans to over 8 percent.

Democrats reject these Republican actions. At a time when college students are confronting skyrocketing tuition costs, we think this Congress should be coming up with creative solutions to help college students better afford their education.

Today, we should pass an improved Labor-HHS appropriation bill that restores the massive cuts in college tuition assistance imposed on this Congress and expand the size and availability of Pell Grants.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6166, MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1042 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: